

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AGRE-00  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /105 W  
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R 041012Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9632  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANILA 13466

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ELAB, UR, RP  
SUBJECT: SOVIETS INVESTING IN PHILIPPINE TRADE UNIONS

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THE PHILIPPINE LABOR  
FIELD APPEARS CLEARLY ON THE UPSWING. THE UNITED CENTRAL  
COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION RECENTLY  
OFFERED 14 ALL-EXPENSES GRANTS TO THE TRADE UNION OF THE  
PHILIPPINES AND ALLIED SERVICES (TUPAS), THE NEW AFFILIATE  
OF THE WFTU, FOR ITS OFFICIALS TO ATTEND VARIOUS UNION  
CONVENTIONS IN BUDAPEST, TASHKENT, WARSAW, PRAGUE, AND  
MOSCOW. IN EARLY SEPTEMBER THE PRESIDENT OF THE EAST  
GERMAN CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS WILL PARTICIPATE IN  
A ONE-WEEK TUPAS SEMINAR IN MANILA ARRANGED BY SECRETARY-  
GENERAL EUGENE ALEXEEV OF THE TRADE UNION INTERNATIONAL  
METALWORKERS, WFTU, WHEN HE WAS HERE IN JULY FOR A ONE-DAY  
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SYMPOSIUM. BONIFACIO TUPAZ OF TUPAS IS TRYING TO PERSUADE  
THE WFTU TO PLACE ITS AREA REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANILA.  
SINCE HIS AFFILIATION WITH THE WFTU, TUPAZ HAS ALSO BEEN  
TRYING TO ORGANIZE A NEW CENTRAL LABOR BODY OF THE  
PHILIPPINES. SO FAR, HIS UNITED LABOR FRONT CLAIMS 22  
AFFILIATES, MOST OF WHOM HOWEVER HAVE LESS THAN 100  
MEMBERS. FURTHER, AMONG THE 22 AFFILIATES HE CLAIMS

JOHNNIE TAN'S FEDERATION OF FREE WORKERS (FFW) AND JERRY MONTEMAYOR'S FEDERATION OF FREE FARMERS (FFF), BOTH OF WHOM DENY THE AFFILIATION. END SUMMARY.

2. SEPTEL REPORTS RECENT OFFERS OF SOVIET TRAVEL GRANTS TO TUCP OFFICERS. AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF INCREASED SOVIET ACTIVITY IN THE PHILIPPINE LABOR FIELD, BONIFACIO ("BONNIE") TUPAZ, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TRADE UNIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND ALLIED SERVICES (TUPAS), TOLD LABATT JULY 31 THAT THE UNITED CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS (UCCTU) OF THE SOVIET UNION WILL PAY ALL EXPENSES FOR HIMSELF AND 13 OFFICERS OF AFFILIATES OF HIS FEDERATION TO PARTICIPATE IN WFTU-ITS CONVENTIONS AS FOLLOWS:

- A. TWO OFFICIALS WILL ATTEND THE TEXTILE ITS CONVENTION IN BUDAPEST IN SEPTEMBER.
  - B. FOUR OFFICIALS WILL ATTEND A MULTINATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AGRICULTURE IN TASHKENT IN OCTOBER.
  - C. TWO OFFICIALS WILL ATTEND THE METAL ITS CONVENTION IN WARSAW IN NOVEMBER.
  - D. TWO OFFICIALS WILL ATTEND THE BANKING AND COMMERCE ITS CONVENTION IN TASHKENT IN NOVEMBER.
  - E. ONE OFFICIAL WILL ATTEND THE HOTEL AND RESTAURANT WORKERS ITS CONVENTION IN PRAGUE IN JANUARY.
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- F. TWO OFFICIALS WILL ATTEND THE FOOD ITS CONVENTION IN PRAGUE IN JANUARY.
- G. TUPAZ WILL ATTEND THE NOVEMBER CELEBRATION OF THE SOVIET REVOLUTION IN MOSCOW.

3. THE FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER 1978 THE PRESIDENT OF THE EAST GERMAN CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS WILL PARTICIPATE IN A TUPAS SEMINAR IN MANILA, THE SUBJECT OF WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED. THE SEMINAR WAS ARRANGED THROUGH THE VISIT IN JULY OF SECRETARY-GENERAL EUGENE ALEXEEV OF THE TRADE UNIONS INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS, WFTU. ALEXEEV MET WITH VARIOUS LEADERS OF THE AFFILIATES OF TUPAS AND CONDUCTED A ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM ON THE EFFECTS OF TRANSNATIONAL AND MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNIONS.

4. WITH THE BREAK-OUT OF THE VIETNAM/CAMBODIA CONFLICT, THE WFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD DECIDED TO CANCEL PLANS TO ESTABLISH AN ASIAN REGIONAL OFFICE (ARO) OF THE WFTU IN HANOI. TUPAZ SAID THAT HE WAS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO

PERSUADE THE SOVIETS TO OPEN THE ARO OFFICE IN MANILA.  
"IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO PERSUADE THEM" HE SAID, "BECAUSE  
I'M TOO NEW TO THE ORGANIZATION -- THEY DON'T RESPECT ME  
YET, BUT THEY WILL."

5. SINCE HIS ANNOUNCED AFFILIATION WITH THE WFTU, TUPAZ  
HAS ALSO BEEN TRYING HARD TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE  
HAS SUCCEEDED IN FORMING A NEW CENTRAL LABOR BODY, THE  
UNITED LABOR FRONT, FOR WHICH HE CLAIMS 22 AFFILIATES.  
MOST OF THE 22 AFFILIATES ARE SMALL LOCAL UNIONS WITH LESS  
THAN 100 MEMBERS EACH BUT THEY MAKE AN IMPRESSIVE LIST TO  
THOSE WHO ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH THESE UNIONS. HE INCLUDES

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MANILA 13466

AMONG THE CLAIMED AFFILIATES SUCH SIZABLE ORGANIZATIONS AS  
JOHNNIE TAN'S (FFW) AND JERRY MONTEMAYOR'S (FFF), BOTH OF  
WHOM DENY ANY SUCH AFFILIATION. IN THE JULY 22 EDITION OF  
WHO MAGAZINE MONTEMAYOR IS QUOTED AS HAVING TOLD AN  
AGRICULTURE NEWS REPORTER THAT "TUPAZ WAS 'PINKISH' AND I  
DID NOT WANT TO JOIN HIS GROUP." THE SAME MAGAZINE STATED  
THAT WHEN ASKED FOR HIS POLITICAL LEANINGS TUPAZ SAID, "I  
AM NO COMMUNIST. I CANNOT EMBRACE COMMUNISM. I AM A  
SOCIALIST. SOCIALISM IS A DIFFERENT FORM OF IDEOLOGY. IN  
SOCIALISM THERE ARE CITIZENS' RIGHTS WHICH ARE STILL IN-

TACT BUT WHICH NO LONGER EXIST TOTALLY IN COMMUNISM."

6. COMMENT: TUPAZ AND LABATT RETAIN A FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP, WITH TUPAZ BEING REASONABLY FORTHCOMING ABOUT ANYTHING THAT AFFECTS HIM. HE IS VERY CONFIDENT ABOUT HIS ABILITY TO BECOME A BIG MAN IN PHILIPPINE LABOR. HE PRIDES HIMSELF ON BEING INDEPENDENT OF THE GOP. "I DON'T DRAW ANY SALARY  
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FROM THE GOP LIKE MENDOZA (A TUCP PRESIDENT WHO IS ALSO COMMISSIONER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM) AND ALL THE OTHERS. I'M NOT AFRAID OF THE GOVERNMENT. I HAVE DOCUMENTS ON ALL OF THEM THAT CAN FRY THEM." HE RECALLED HOW "WHEN I DISAFFILIATED WITH THE TUCP I ACCUSED THE MINISTRY OF LABOR EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF BEING CORRUPT AND NOTHING HAPPENED TO ME." (TUPAZ' CHARGES APPARENTLY HAD A VALID BASIS SINCE THE DIRECTOR OF THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE HAS NOW BEEN SUSPENDED FOR ALLEGED GRAFT IN RELATION TO A 1.6 MILLION DOLLAR TRUST FUND FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINOS.) IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT CRITICS OF PHILIPPINE LABOR QUITE FREELY CLAIM THAT THE GOP DOMINATES THEM. TUPAS IS THE THIRD LARGEST UNION IN THE PHILIPPINES AND BONNIE TUPAZ WILL CHALLENGE ANYONE WHO TRY'S TO INCLUDE HIM IN THE GOP-DOMINATION MYTH. MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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